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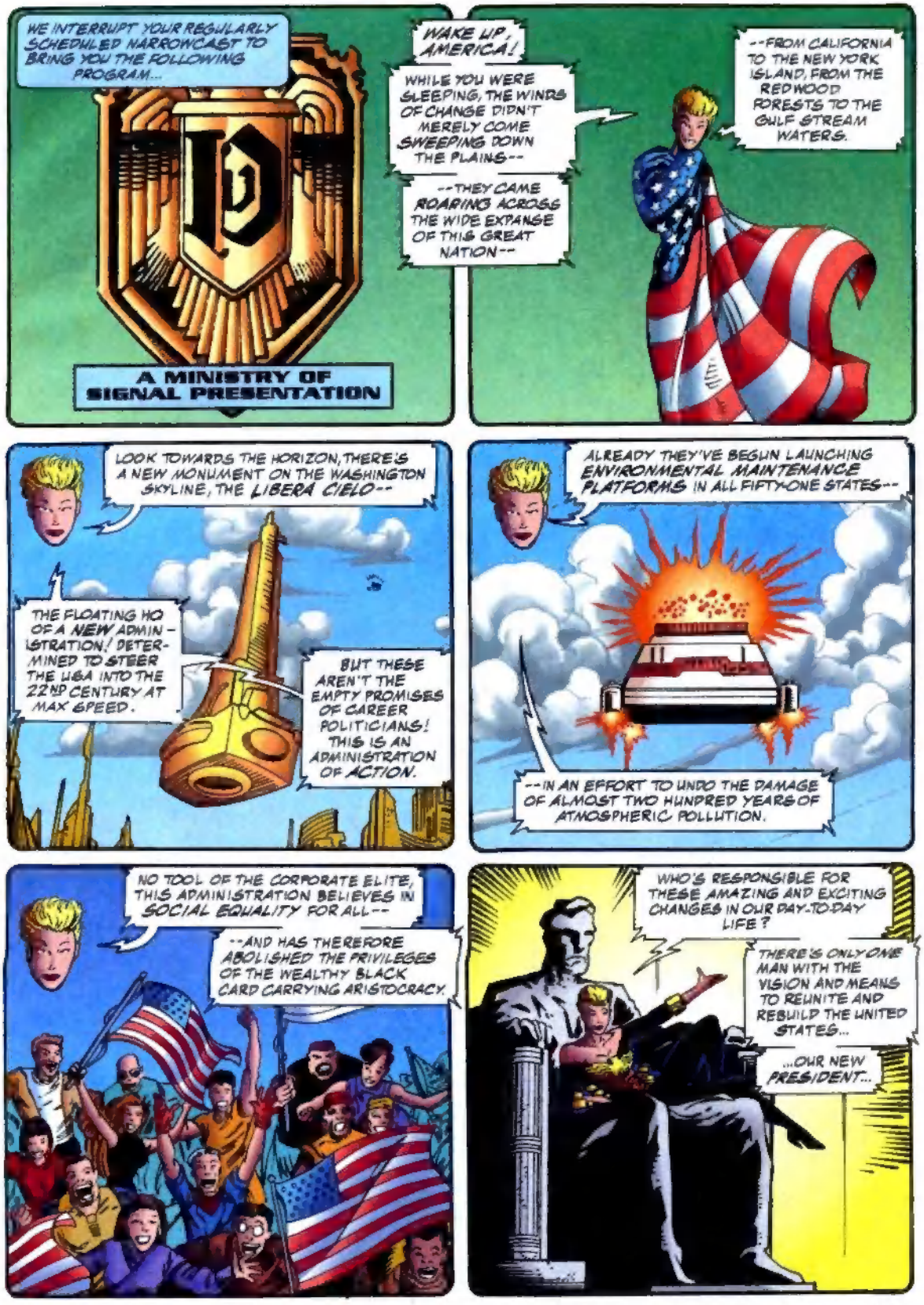
WE INTERRUPT YOUR REGULARLY SCHEDULED NARROWCAST TO BRING YOU THE FOLLOWING PROGRAM...
A MINISTRY OF SIGNAL PRESENTATION
WAKE UP, AMERICA!
WHILE YOU WERE SLEEPING, THE WINDS OF CHANGE DIDN'T MERELY COME SWEEPING DOWN THE PLAINS--
--THEY CAME ROARING ACROSS THE WIDE EXPANSE OF THIS GREAT NATION--
--FROM CALIFORNIA TO THE NEW YORK ISLAND, FROM THE REDWOOD FORESTS TO THE GULF STREAM WATERS.
LOOK TOWARDS THE HORIZON, THERE'S A NEW MONUMENT ON THE WASHINGTON SKYLINE, THE LIBERA CIELO--
THE FLOATING HQ OF A NEW ADMINISTRATION, DETERMINED TO STEER THE USA INTO THE 22ND CENTURY AT MAX SPEED.
BUT THESE AREN'T THE EMPTY PROMISES OF CAREER POLITICIANS! THIS IS AN ADMINISTRATION OF ACTION.
ALREADY THEY'VE BEGUN LAUNCHING ENVIRONMENTAL MAINTENANCE PLATFORMS IN ALL FIFTY-ONE STATES--
--IN AN EFFORT TO UNDO THE DAMAGE OF ALMOST TWO HUNDRED YEARS OF ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION.
NO TOOL OF THE CORPORATE ELITE, THIS ADMINISTRATION BELIEVES IN SOCIAL EQUALITY FOR ALL--
--AND HAS THEREFORE ABOLISHED THE PRIVILEGES OF THE WEALTHY BLACK CARD CARRYING ARISTOCRACY.
WHO'S RESPONSIBLE FOR THESE AMAZING AND EXCITING CHANGES IN OUR DAY-TO-DAY LIFE?
THERE'S ONLY ONE MAN WITH THE VISION AND MEANS TO REUNITE AND REBUILD THE UNITED STATES...
...OUR NEW PRESIDENT...

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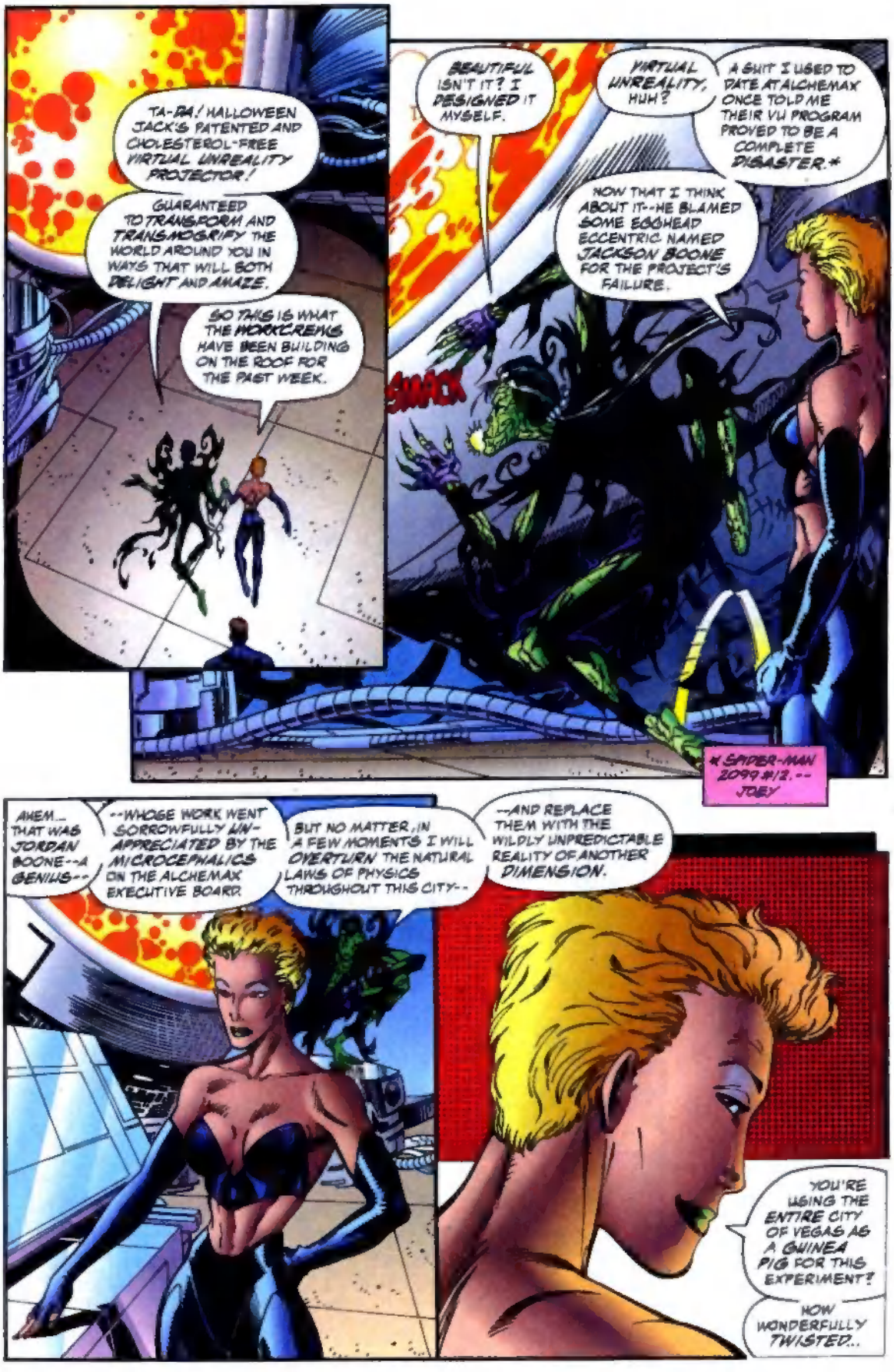
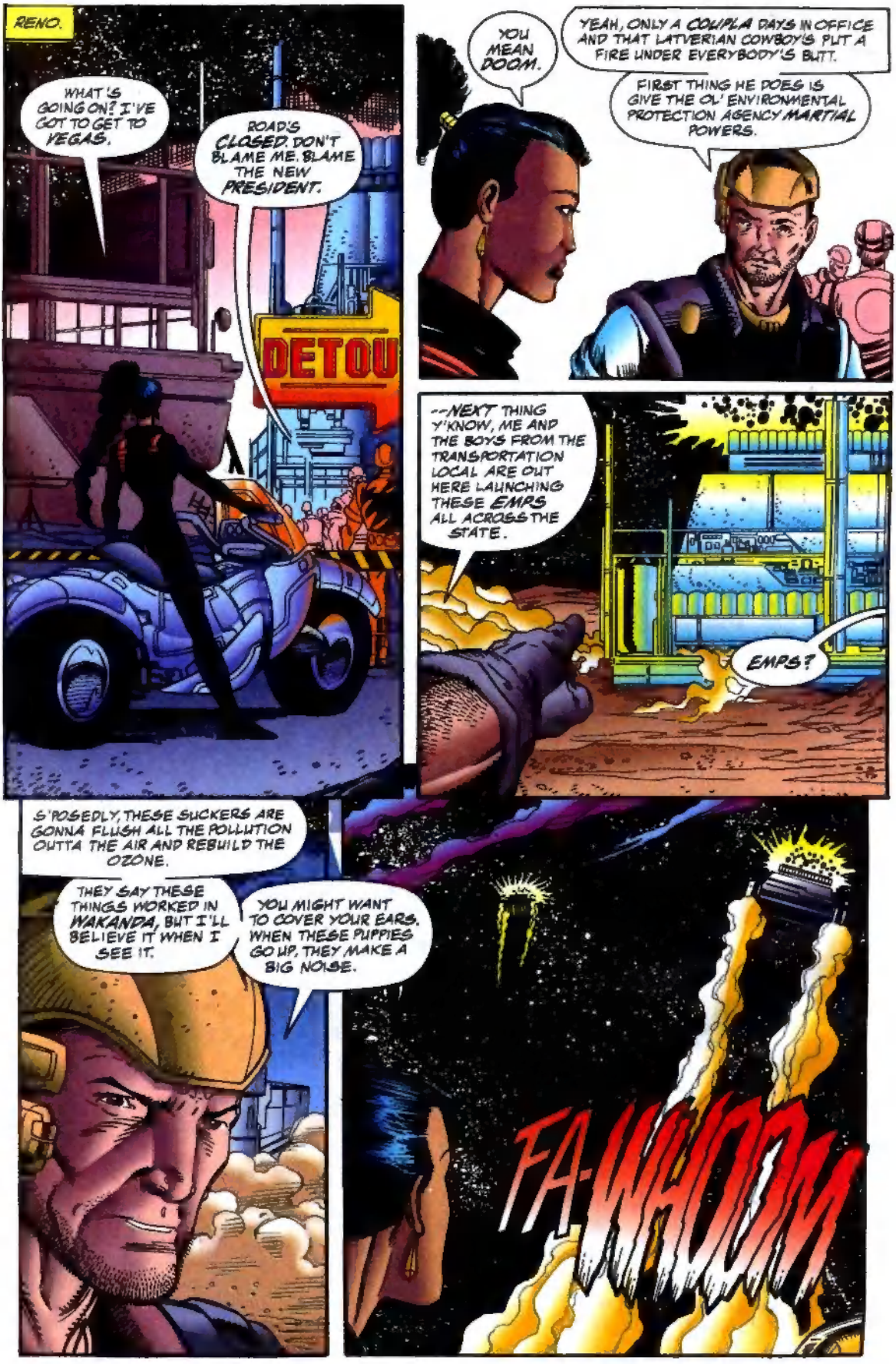
DOOM!
DOOM!
DOOM!
DOOM!
WHO DOES THIS GUY THINK HE IS?!?
STAN LEE PRESENTS:
UNREALITY BITES
PLEDGING ALLEGIANCE
WITH
JOHN FRANCIS MOORE
RON LIM
HARRY CANDELARIO
KEN LOPEZ
TOM SMITH
JOEY CAVALIERI
AND BOBBIE CHASE

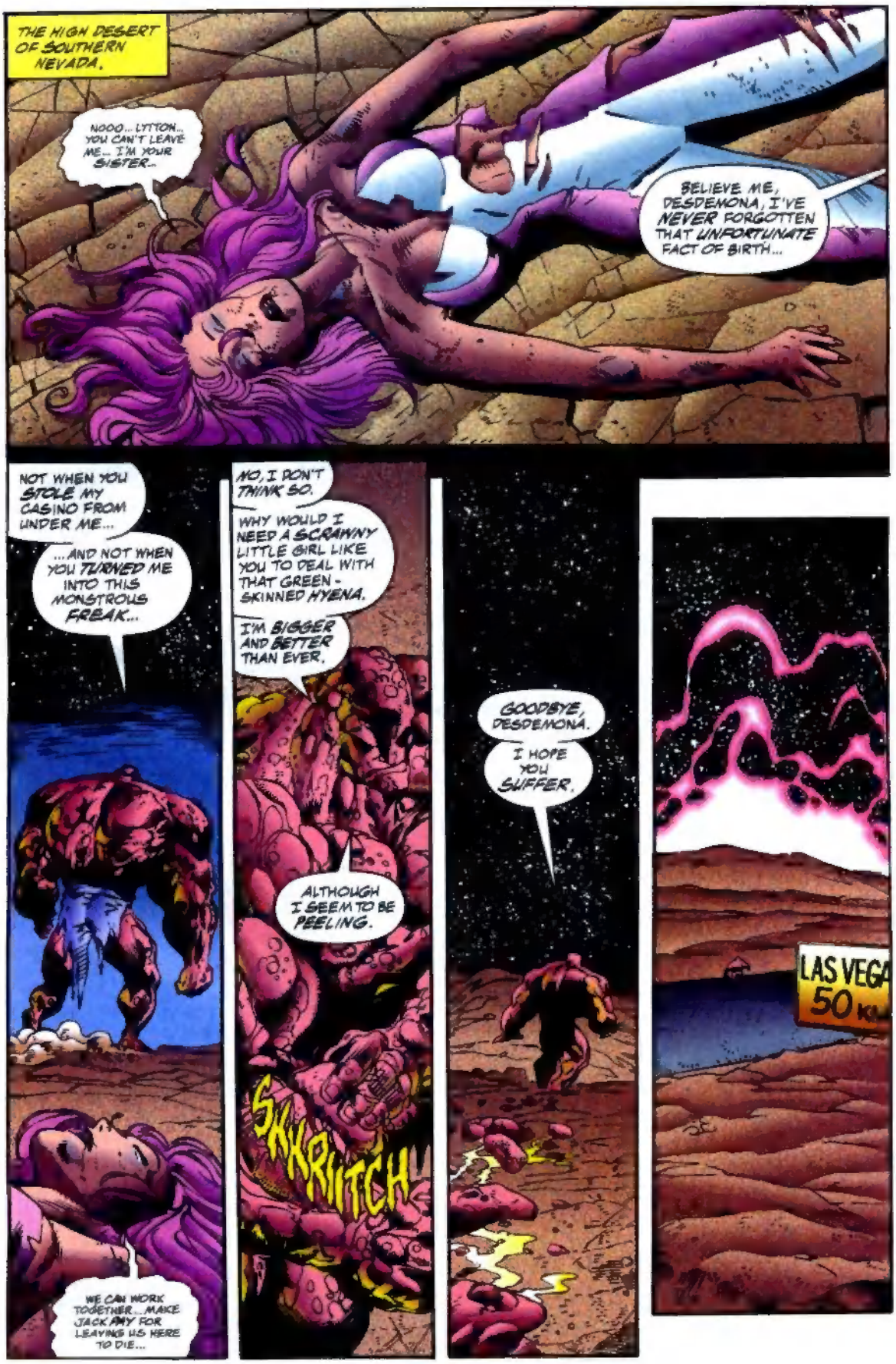
OH, YOU REMEMBER DOOM, JACK.
IT WAS A RHETORICAL QUESTION, HENRI. OF COURSE, I REMEMBER THAT LATVERIAN SPOILSPORT.
HE'S THE MAN WHO SHUT DOWN ALCHEMAX'S AESIR CON BACK WHEN YOU WERE MASQUERADING AS LOKI.*
MARK MY WORDS, HENRI, THAT CHROMEPLATED DESPOT'S BITTEN OFF MORE THAN HE CAN CHEW THIS TIME.
IS THAT A NOTE OF PROFESSIONAL JEALOUSY I HEAR IN YOUR--
I SAID GET YOUR HANDS OFF ME, YOU PINHEAD--
*"THE FALL OF THE HAMMER" CROSSOVER, INCLUDING X-MEN 2099 #5.--JOEY
I APOLOGIZE FOR THE DELAY, SIRS, BUT MS. AMBERLYN REFUSED TO COME VOLUNTARILY.
LISTEN, I DON'T CARE IF POPE THERESA MARIA HERSELF REQUESTS A PRIVATE AUDIENCE--
--CELESTIA AMBERLYN DOES NOT--EMPHASIS ON "NOT"-- DO PERSONAL APPEARANCES.
I'M THE BIGGEST SHOCKIN' STAR THIS CASINO HAS, AND I DEMAND TO BE TREATED LIKE IT.
STIFLE THE OUTRAGE, SISTER. YOU'RE TALKING TO HALLOWEEN JACK NOW, NOT ONE OF YOUR SYCOPHANTIC ENTOURAGE.
I WANT TO KNOW WHAT YOU WERE DOING NARRATING THIS POLITICAL PROPAGANDA--
--WHEN YOU HAVE AN EXCLUSIVE CONTRACT WITH MY CASINO.
MY EXCLUSIVE WITH THE SYNGE CASINO CORPORATION IS FOR LIVE PERFORMANCE.
THE MINISTRY OF SIGNAL SIMPLY LICENSED MY COPYRIGHTED HOLOGRAPHIC LIKENESS.
THEY COULDN'T AFFORD ANYTHING MORE.
OKAY... YOU GET OFF ON A TECHNICALITY.
EXCUSE ME--IS THIS CAMERABOT ON?
TWENTY-FOUR HOURS A DAY AND LATER EDITED AND REPLAYED ON THE CELESTIA CHANNEL.
MY LIFE IS MY ART.

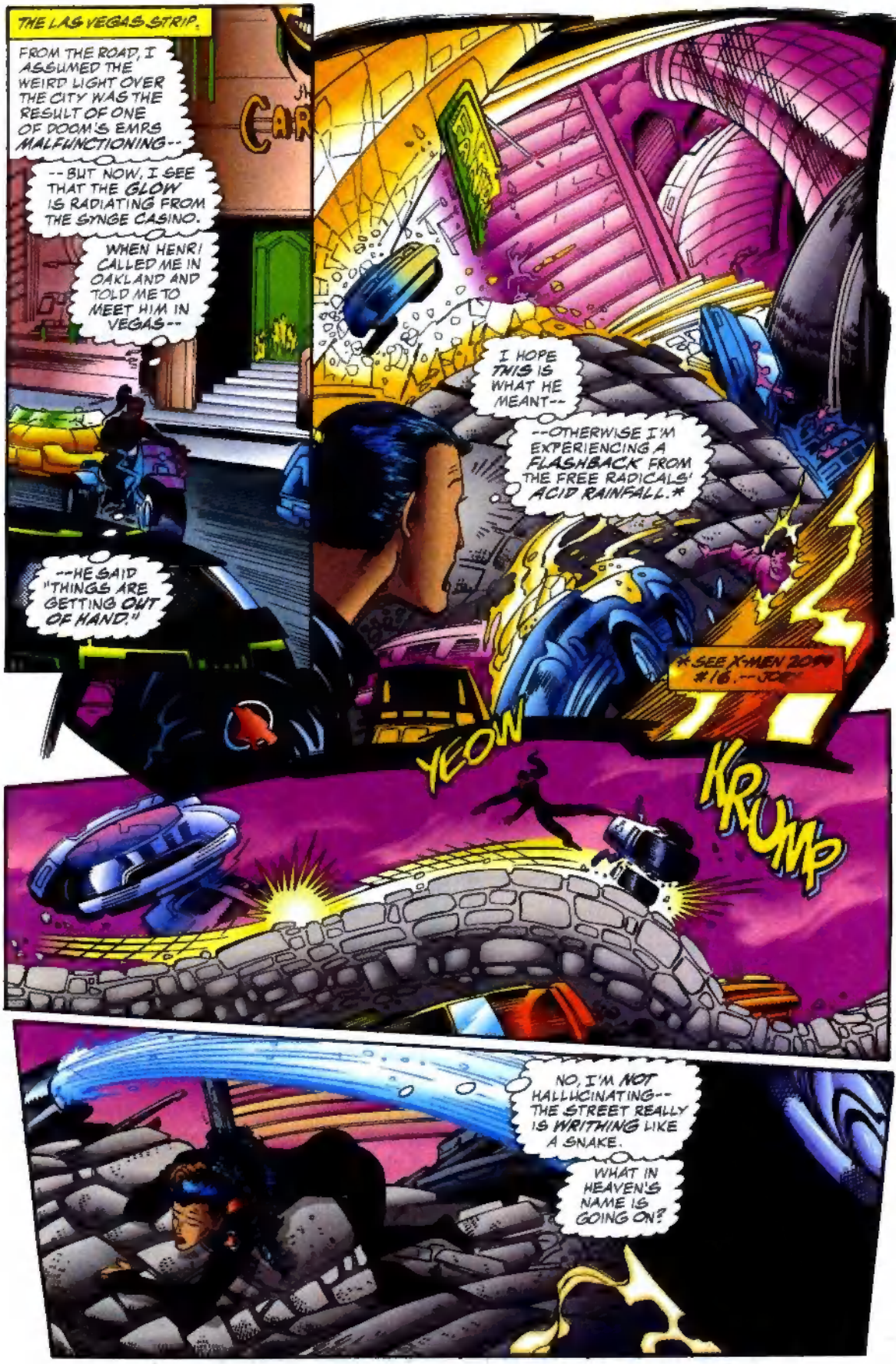
HOW SELFLESS YOU ARE, MADAME, OFFERING THE AVERAGE JOE A WINDOW ON YOUR WORLD OF CELEBRITY AND GLAMOR.
YOU'RE LAYING IT ON THICK, JACK.
WE STAND IN THE PRESENCE OF AN ABSOLUTE ANGEL, EH, HENRI?
YOU'RE RIGHT. SARCASM CAN BE TOO EASILY MISINTERPRETED.
ALLOW ME TO MAKE MY POINT MORE CLEARLY.
SWEETIE, HALLOWEEN JACK'S THE STAR OF THIS SHOW.
KABLAM
YOU CLOWN-FACED, POCK-MARKED, GREEN-SKINNED JERK!
I AM A CLOSE AND PERSONAL FRIEND OF INDIGO ESHUN, MINISTER OF SIGNAL.
I CAN HAVE THE NEW ADMINISTRATION MAKE LIFE EXCEEDINGLY DIFFICULT FOR YOU.
TEMPER, TEMPER. YOU'RE NOT ON CAMERA ANYMORE.
ALLOW ME TO SHOW YOU WHY NEITHER DOOM NOR HIS CABINET THREATEN ME IN THE LEAST.


TA-DA! HALLOWEEN JACK'S PATENTED AND CHOLESTEROL-FREE VIRTUAL UNREALITY PROJECTOR!
GUARANTEED TO TRANSFORM AND TRANSMOGRIFY THE WORLD AROUND YOU IN WAYS THAT WILL BOTH DELIGHT AND AMAZE.
SO THIS IS WHAT THE HORRCREWS HAVE BEEN BUILDING ON THE ROOF FOR THE PAST WEEK.
BEAUTIFUL ISN'T IT? I DESIGNED IT MYSELF.
VIRTUAL UNREALITY, HUH?
A SHIT I USED TO DATE AT ALCHEMAX ONCE TOLD ME THEIR VU PROGRAM PROVED TO BE A COMPLETE DISASTER.*
NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT--HE BLAMED SOME EGGHEAD ECCENTRIC NAMED JACKSON BOONE FOR THE PROJECT'S FAILURE.
SMACK
* SPIDER-MAN 2099 #12. -- JOEY
AHEM... THAT WAS JORDAN BOONE--A GENIUS--
--WHOSE WORK WENT SORROWFULLY UN-APPRECIATED BY THE MICROCEPHALICS ON THE ALCHEMAX EXECUTIVE BOARD.
BUT NO MATTER. IN A FEW MOMENTS I WILL OVERTURN THE NATURAL LAWS OF PHYSICS THROUGHOUT THIS CITY--
--AND REPLACE THEM WITH THE WILDLY UNPREDICTABLE REALITY OF ANOTHER DIMENSION.
YOU'RE USING THE ENTIRE CITY OF VEGAS AS A GUINEA PIG FOR THIS EXPERIMENT?
HOW WONDERFULLY TWISTED...

DIDJA HEAR THAT, HANK? I THINK SHE LIKES ME.
LET'S MAKE A DEAL. I DON'T CALL YOU JORDAN ANYMORE, AND YOU NEVER, EVER CALL ME HANK AGAIN IN THIS LIFETIME.
I HAVE TO TELL YOU, JACK, EVEN THOUGH THE HARDWARE CHECKS OUT--
--I'M STILL NOT COMFORTABLE WITH THE MARGIN OF ERROR WE'RE WORKING WITH.
C'MON, HENRI, THIS IS VEGAS...
EVERYTHING'S A CRAP-SHOOT.
KLIK
HHHMMMMMM
SO LET'S FIRE THIS BABY UP AND SEE WHAT HAPPENS.
VIVA LAS VEGAS...
...WHATEVER IT MAY BECOME.


RENO.
WHAT'S GOING ON? I'VE GOT TO GET TO VEGAS.
ROAD'S CLOSED. DON'T BLAME ME. BLAME THE NEW PRESIDENT.
DETOU
YOU MEAN DOOM.
YEAH, ONLY A COUPLA DAYS IN OFFICE AND THAT LATVERIAN COWBOY'S PUT A FIRE UNDER EVERYBODY'S BUTT.
FIRST THING HE DOES IS GIVE THE OL' ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY MARTIAL POWERS.
--NEXT THING Y'KNOW, ME AND THE BOYS FROM THE TRANSPORTATION LOCAL ARE OUT HERE LAUNCHING THESE EMPS ALL ACROSS THE STATE.
EMPS?
S'POSEDLY, THESE SUCKERS ARE GONNA FLUSH ALL THE POLLUTION OUTTA THE AIR AND REBUILD THE OZONE.
THEY SAY THESE THINGS WORKED IN WAKANDA, BUT I'LL BELIEVE IT WHEN I SEE IT.
YOU MIGHT WANT TO COVER YOUR EARS. WHEN THESE PUPPIES GO UP, THEY MAKE A BIG NOISE.
FA-WHOOM


THE HIGH DESERT OF SOUTHERN NEVADA.
NOOO... LYTTON... YOU CAN'T LEAVE ME... I'M YOUR SISTER...
BELIEVE ME, DESDEMONA, I'VE NEVER FORGOTTEN THAT UNFORTUNATE FACT OF BIRTH...
NOT WHEN YOU STOLE MY CASINO FROM UNDER ME...
...AND NOT WHEN YOU TURNED ME INTO THIS MONSTROUS FREAK...
WE CAN WORK TOGETHER... MAKE JACK PAY FOR LEAVING US HERE TO DIE...
NO, I DON'T THINK SO.
WHY WOULD I NEED A SCRAWNY LITTLE GIRL LIKE YOU TO DEAL WITH THAT GREEN-SKINNED HYENA.
I'M BIGGER AND BETTER THAN EVER.
ALTHOUGH I SEEM TO BE PEELING.
SKKRIITCH
GOODBYE, DESDEMONA.
I HOPE YOU SUFFER.
LAS VEGA
50 K

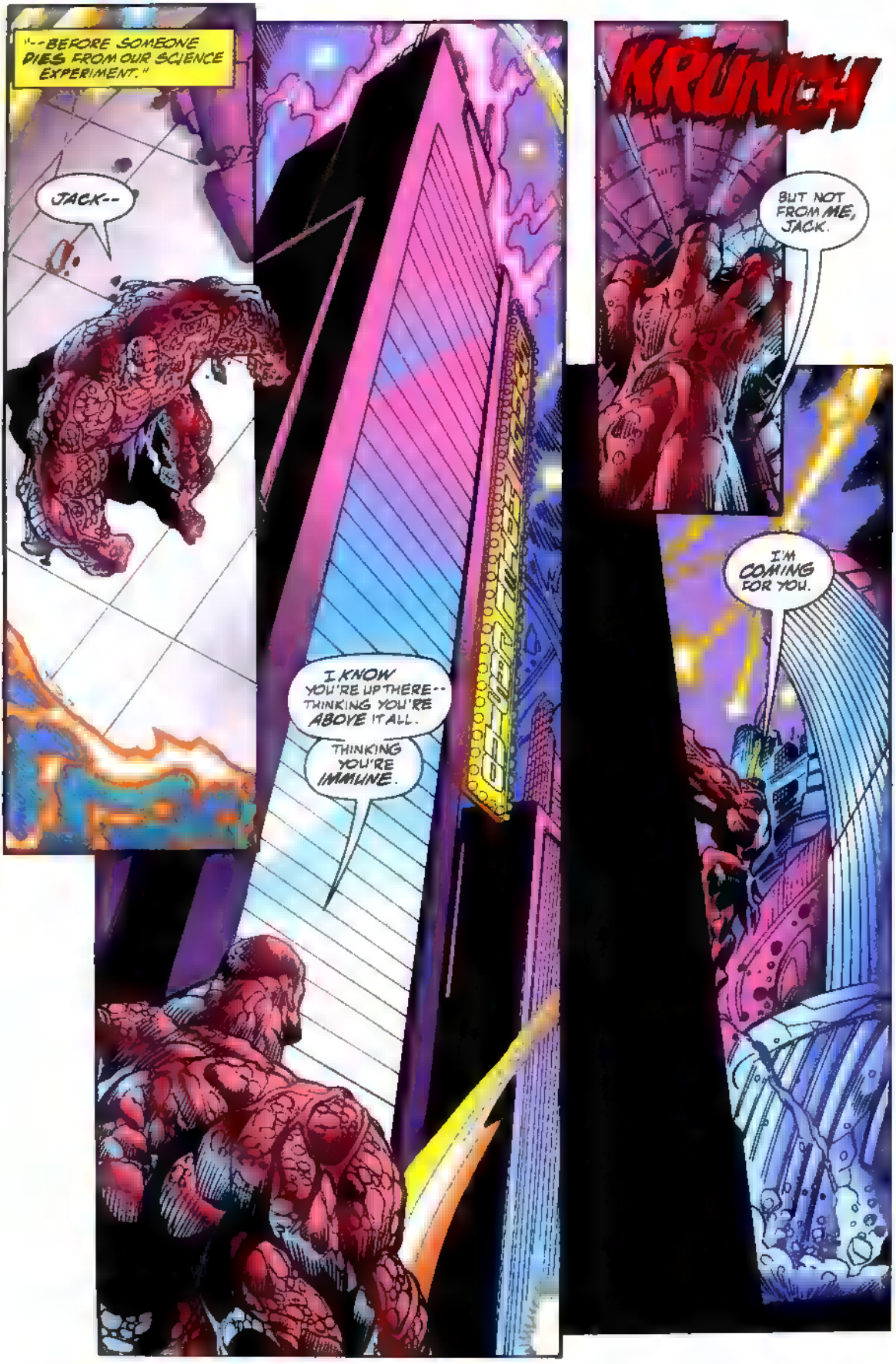

THE LAS VEGAS STRIP.
FROM THE ROAD, I ASSUMED THE WEIRD LIGHT OVER THE CITY WAS THE RESULT OF ONE OF DOOM'S EMPS MALFUNCTIONING--
--BUT NOW, I SEE THAT THE GLOW IS RADIATING FROM THE SYNGE CASINO.
WHEN HENRI CALLED ME IN OAKLAND AND TOLD ME TO MEET HIM IN VEGAS--
--HE SAID "THINGS ARE GETTING OUT OF HAND."
I HOPE THIS IS WHAT HE MEANT--
--OTHERWISE I'M EXPERIENCING A FLASHBACK FROM THE FREE RADICALS' ACID RAINFALL.*
* SEE X-MEN 20?? #16.--JC
YEOW
KRUMP
NO, I'M NOT HALLUCINATING-- THE STREET REALLY IS WRITHING LIKE A SNAKE.
WHAT IN HEAVEN'S NAME IS GOING ON?

DAAAAAR.. I WANT TO GO HOOOOME.
SHUT UP AND RUN, ELMO.
I TOLD YOU WE SHOULD HAVE GONE TO CABO, MYRON.
THAT FAMILY DOESN'T SEE THE SIGNAGE BREAKING ABOVE THEIR HEADS.
IT'S THE HAND OF GOD!
WWWAAAAAHHH!
NO, IT'S THE HAND OF THE NEON GALOOT GULCH CASINO COWPOKE--
KA-WHOOSH
AND BEFORE IT MAKES A LETHAL POINT--
--I'LL BEND IT IN ANOTHER DIRECTION WITH A CRYSTALLINE SLUICE.
EVER SINCE THAT CRAZY HALLOWEEN MAN TOOK OVER, THE CITY'S JUST GONE CRAZY--AND NOT IN A GOOD WAY.
WILL YOU LOOK AT WHAT HE'S DONE TO THE SYNGE CASINO, IT USED TO BE SO NICE.
I TELL YOU THIS, THEY'RE GOING TO LOSE BUSINESS BECAUSE OF THIS.
NOT MINE.
I HAVE RESERVATIONS.

IT WORKS! IT WORKS!
BRAVO. BRAVO.
CLAP CLAP CLAP
YOU DON'T LOOK TOO HAPPY, HUANG.
I THOUGHT YOU WERE ■ WILLING ACCOMPLICE ■ THIS SURREAL SPECTACULAR.
I SIGNED ON TO HELP JACK RUN THE SYNGES AND THE SYNDICATE OUT OF TOWN--
--BUT I'M WORRIED ABOUT THE CONSEQUENCES OF THE UNREALITY PROJECTOR.
IT'S RIPPING THE CITY APART.
AND THAT'S THE POINT--
--TO TURN THIS FESTERING BASTION OF DECADENCE AND GREED UPSIDE DOWN.
YOU'RE ENDANGERING INNOCENTS.
SO?
THERE'S NO TALKING TO YOU, ANYMORE, JACK.
I NEED A BREAK FROM YOUR INSANITY.
WHOOSH

WHAT WAS I THINKING? THE X-MEN FALL APART--
--AND I IMMEDIATELY GET INVOLVED WITH THE PSYCHOTIC GAMES OF AN OLD FRIEND--
--WHOSE SANITY IS IN QUESTION.
K-CHING K-CHING K-CHING
HOW CAN ONE MACHINE DELIVER THIS MUCH COIN?
DON'T ASK QUESTIONS-- JUST GRAB ALL YOU CAN CARRY
COULD I HAVE BEEN MORE IRRESPONSIBLE--?
--I MEAN WE'VE ALTERED THE FUNDAMENTAL PHYSICAL FABRIC OF REALITY WITHOUT A THOUGHT TO THE LONG TERM EFFECTS.
VWOOP
WHOA-- SOME SORT OF OTHER-DIMENSIONAL CREATURE RACING AT THE SAME SPEED I AM--
--PACING ME.
THEY SEEM BENIGN, BUT THE NEXT THING THAT FOLLOWS MAY NOT BE.
WE'VE OPENED PANDORA'S BOX.
BACK OFF, FOLKS. NOBODY'S GOING UPSTAIRS BY ORDER OF THE OWNER.
THAT GREEN SKINNED LOONEY'S BEHIND THIS MESS, I BET.
YEAH.
RIGHT.
WHAT HE SAID.
YEAH

I SAID BACK OFF!
LOOK, I DON'T CARE ABOUT THIS JACK CHARACTER--
--I'M SUPPOSED TO MEET HENRY HUANG. I'M A FRIEND.
THAT'S WHAT THEY ALL SAY.
LISTEN, BUSTER, I'VE BEEN ON BIKE ALL DAY. I'M TIRED AND NOT IN THE BEST OF MOODS.
I THINK IT'S IN YOUR BEST INTEREST TO GET OUT OF MY WAY BEFORE I--
VWOOOSH
HENRI! YOUR MESSAGE HAD ME WORRIED. I'M GLAD YOU'RE ALL RIGHT.
I DIDN'T WANT TO GO INTO DETAIL OVER THE COMNET.
WHAT HAPPENED IN OAKLAND--?
YOU FIRST. WHAT HAVE YOU GOTTEN INTO HERE? WHO'S HALLOWEEN JACK?
YET ANOTHER OF JORDAN BOONE'S ALTER-EGOS
AND HE'S RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS CHAOS?
WE BOTH ARE, BUT I'M THE ONE WHO'S GOING TO STOP IT--


"--BEFORE SOMEONE DIES FROM OUR SCIENCE EXPERIMENT."
JACK--
!
I KNOW YOU'RE UP THERE-- THINKING YOU'RE ABOVE IT ALL.
THINKING YOU'RE IMMUNE.
KRUNCH
BUT NOT FROM ME, JACK.
I'M COMING FOR YOU.

DING!
HENRI! I KNEW YOU'D COME BACK.
AND IS THAT THE LOVELY KRYSTALIN WITH YOU?
ALWAXS A PLEASURE.
SO TELL ME, GIRL, WHEN ARE YOU AND HANK GONNA GET OVER THIS PLATONIC FOOLISHNESS--
--AND UNCORK ALL THOSE BASE ANIMAL URGES THE TWO OF YOU'VE KEPT BOTTLED UP FOR YEARS?
JACK, I'M GOING TO SHUT THE PROJECTOR DOWN.
I'M SORRY, DID I HEAR YOU CORRECTLY?
YOU WANT TO END THIS EXTRAVAGANZA?
NO. NO. NO.
THEN I'LL TAKE CARE OF IT MYSELF.
WOOSH
GET AWAY FROM THE CONSOLE, HANK--I'D HATE TO HURT THE LITTLE WOMAN.
JORDAN, THIS IS JUST BETWEEN YOU AND--

FWOOM
WHAT WAS THAT? A SONIC BOOM?
NO, IT'S SOME SORT OF STEALTH FLIER--
I AM DOOM.
I AM THE PRESIDENT.
STEP AWAY FROM THE PROJECTOR.
THAT IS AN EXECUTIVE ORDER.
HOW RUDE!
DOOM.
THE ARMOR'S DIFFERENT THAN THE FIRST TIME WE MET HIM--*
--BUT THERE'S NO MISTAKING THE SWAGGER AND THE IMPERIOUS TONE OF VOICE.
*X-MEN 2099 #5.--JOEY

SORRY THERE'S NO RED CARPET TO ROLL OUT--
--BUT HAIL TO THE CHIEF AND ALL THAT.
WELCOME TO VEGAS, MR. PRESIDENT.
YOU NEED A DATE, TICKETS FOR A SHOW, ANYTHING-- LET ME KNOW--
--THEY'RE ON THE HOUSE. WINK. WINK.
DON'T WASTE MY TIME JORDAN BOONE.
YOUR SHAPECHANGING ANTICS DO NOT AMUSE ME.
HOW MANY TIMES DO I HAVE TO SAY IT--
I'M NOT JORDAN BOONE!
KWAP
YOUR PERSONALITY DISORDER IS OF NO CONCERN TO ME.
YOUR SOPHOMORIC APPLICATION OF DIMENSIONAL INTERFACE TECHNOLOGY THREATENS THE ENVIRONMENTAL BALANCE I AM TRYING TO RESTORE.

WHY ARE YOU IN SUCH A SNIT? IT'S ONLY VEGAS.
YOU'VE COMPLETELY MISCALCULATED THE PERSISTENCE OF THE ANOMALY WAVE.
THE EFFECT WILL NOT DIMINISH WITH DISTANCE.
NO. I DISAGREE ACCORDING TO RICHARDS' PRINCIPAL OF TANGENTIAL EQUILIBRIUM--
I AM THE LAST PERSON TO WHOM YOU SHOULD QUOTE RICHARDS--
JACKKK!!
HUH?
I WILL NOT BE INTERRUPTED.

OOOOH.
WHUMP
HEY! I THINK THAT SHAMBLING SUNBURN WAS LYTTON SYNGE.
WELL, WHAT D'YA KNOW?
PAY ATTENTION, BOONE.
YOU RECKLESSLY IGNORED THE NEED FOR CONTAINMENT BUFFERS.
IF LEFT UNCHECKED, THE OTHER-DIMENSIONAL PROJECTION WILL CREATE A CHAIN REACTION THAT WILL TRANSFORM THE PLANET--
--IN THE SAME UNNATURAL MANNER IT IS WARPING THIS CITY.
IT'S NOT LIKE I INTENDED TO KEEP THE PROJECTOR RUNNING NON-STOP.
HENRI, WHY DON'T YOU DO US ALL A FAVOR, AND TURN THE PROJECTOR--
OFF!

I'VE BEEN TRYING, BUT I CAN'T CLOSE THE INTERDIMENSIONAL LENS--
--AND THE VU WAVE'S RENDERED THE FAILSAFES INOPERATIVE.
GEE, I FEEL REALLY BAD ABOUT THIS.
I SUPPOSE THERE'S NOTHING LEFT TO DO EXCEPT SIT BACK AND WATCH THE PLANET PLUNGE INTO MADNESS.
THE WORLD NEEDS A GOOD SWIFT KICK IN THE PANTS ANYWAY.
YOU HAVE SQUANDERED YOUR INTELLECT IN A MOST JUVENILE MANNER.
A PITY: AT ONE TIME, YOU MIGHT HAVE FOUND A PLACE IN MY MINISTRY OF SCIENCE.
HMMMPH.
I AM FORCED NOW TO TAKE EXTREME MEASURES TO PREVENT THE VU EFFECT FROM SPREADING FURTHER.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN-- EXTREME?

MINUTES AGO, I GAVE THE COMMAND TO LAUNCH A PHALANX OF EMPS AROUND THE GREATER LAS VEGAS AREA.
THEY HAVE BEEN SPECIALLY PROGRAMMED TO CREATE A CONTAINMENT FIELD THAT WILL BUFFER THE VU WAVE.
FROM THIS MOMENT ON, I'M CLOSING LAS VEGAS.
WHAT? IF YOU THINK A PRESIDENTIAL DECREE'S GOING TO RUN ME OUT OF TOWN--
YOU'VE GOT ANOTHER THINK COMING, BUDDY.
FEEL FREE TO LORD OVER THE CITY YOU HAVE TAINTED, BOONE--
--BUT IF YOU UNDERTAKE YOUR MISCHIEF ANYWHERE ELSE IN MY AMERICA--
--MAKE NO MISTAKE. I WILL HAVE YOU KILLED.
SPOILSPORT. REMIND ME NOT TO INVITE HIM TO MY NEXT PARTY.

AT LEAST WE STILL HAVE EACH OTHER HENRI, OLD PAL. THINK OF THE FUN WE'LL HAVE.
AND I GUESS, YOU CAN PLAY TOO, KRYSTALIN.
NO, THIS IS WHERE I GET OFF, JACK.
KRYS AND I NEED TO RECONNECT WITH THE REST OF THE X-MEN.
DON'T GO... HELP ME BLAST THOSE EMRS OUT OF THE SKY.
TOGETHER WE CAN KNOCK DOOM OFF HIS HIGH HORSE.
GIVE IT A REST. CLOWNTIME IS OVER.
THEN GO -- RUN OFF WITH THE REST OF THOSE MUNDANE MUTANTS.
HALLOWEEN JACK DOESN'T NEED YOU!
HE DOESN'T NEED ANYONE!
HE'S YOUR FRIEND.
DON'T REMIND ME.
DANGER
LAS VEGAS
ANOMALOUS ZONE AHEAD
ENTER AT YOUR OWN RISK
NEXT: XI'AN RETURNS!